

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Delete Claims 1-28 and replace with new Claims 29-48.

Listing of Claims:

29. A shape cutting system for cutting a material having a surface, the system comprising:
- a frame having a lower support surface,
 - a blade adjustment assembly coupled to the frame,
 - a blade assembly operatively connected to the frame, the blade assembly positioned at least partially within the frame such that a longitudinal axis of the blade assembly is substantially perpendicular to the lower support surface of the frame, the blade assembly including a blade retainer and a blade operatively connected to the retainer, the retainer having a rigid collar, and the blade assembly rotatable about the longitudinal axis, and
 - a blade adjustment assembly coupled to the frame and to the blade assembly, the blade adjustment assembly including an adjusting knob, a plunger, and a biasing member in contact with both the adjusting knob and the plunger, the adjusting knob applying pressure directly against the biasing member to adjust the pressure exerted against the blade assembly.
30. The shape cutting system of claim 29 further comprising a cutting mat, the cutting mat configured for placement under the material to be cut and the cutting unit.
31. The shape cutting system of claim 29 wherein the cutting unit includes a protective cover covering the lower surface of the frame and the lower portion of the blade assembly.
32. The shape cutting system of claim 29 wherein the frame includes a base and a housing coupled to the base, wherein the housing is configured to enclose at least a portion of the blade adjustment assembly and the blade assembly, wherein the blade assembly

extends along a first axis, and wherein the lower surface of the base defines a plane which is substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

33. The shape cutting system of claim 32, wherein the blade assembly is rotatable about the first axis in at least one of a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction.

34. A shape cutting system for cutting a material having a surface, the system comprising:

a frame having a lower support surface,

a blade assembly coupled to the frame, the blade assembly positioned at least partially within the frame such that a longitudinal axis of the blade assembly is substantially perpendicular to the lower support surface of the frame, the blade assembly including a blade retainer and a blade operatively connected to the retainer, and the blade assembly rotatable about the longitudinal axis, and

a blade adjustment assembly coupled to the frame and including a blade operating mode indicator, the position of the operating mode indicator affecting the approximate amount of downward pressure applied to the blade during operation, the blade adjustment assembly also including an adjusting knob, a plunger, and a biasing member in contact with both the adjusting knob and the plunger, the adjusting knob applying pressure directly against the biasing member to adjust the pressure exerted against the blade assembly.

35. The shape cutting system of claim 34 wherein the blade operating mode indicator indicates which of at least a first and a second operating mode the device is operating in.

36. The shape cutting system of claim 35 wherein the first operating mode is a free-form cutting mode and wherein the second operating mode is a template cutting mode.

37. A device for rendering shapes upon a material, the device comprising:
a frame having a substantially flat lower surface sized to support the device in an upright position;

a marking device adjustment assembly coupled to the frame and including an adjusting knob, a plunger, and a biasing member in contact with both the adjusting knob and the plunger, the adjusting knob applying pressure directly against the biasing member;

a marking device assembly at least partially enclosed by the frame and operatively coupled to the marking device adjustment assembly, the marking device assembly including a marking portion having a longitudinal axis substantially perpendicular to the flat lower surface of the frame and passing through the center of the device.

38. The device of claim 37 wherein the frame further includes a base having the substantially lower surface, a housing at least partially enclosing the marking device assembly, and an arm connecting the base to the housing, and wherein the arm has the storage compartment.

39. The device of claim 37 further comprising a protective cover removably operatively connected to the frame and covering at least a portion of the marking device assembly.

40. A device for rendering shapes upon a material, the device comprising:
a frame having a substantially flat lower surface, the flat lower surface sized to support the device in an upright position;

a marking device adjustment assembly coupled to the frame and including an adjusting knob, a plunger, and a biasing member in contact with both the adjusting knob and the plunger, the adjusting knob applying pressure directly against the biasing member;

a marking device assembly at least partially enclosed by the frame and operatively coupled to the marking device adjustment assembly, the frame having a storage compartment for storing at least additional marking device assembly

wherein the marking device adjustment assembly includes a marking device operating mode indicator, the position of the operating mode indicator affecting the approximate amount of pressure applied to the marking device assembly during operation.

41. The device of claim 40 wherein the marking device assembly is a blade assembly and wherein the blade assembly includes at least one of a single edged blade, a double edged blade and a rotary blade.

42. The device of claim 41, further comprising a template for facilitating the rendering of shapes onto a material by a rendering device, the template comprising:

a substantially flat sheet having first and second sides, a periphery and at least one opening extending from the first side to the second side, the first side of the sheet configured for placement upon the material to be cut, the second side of the sheet configured to contact the rendering device, the sheet made of a semi-transparent tinted template material, the first side laterally extending at the periphery and at the at least one opening farther than the second side to define a chamfer at the periphery and at the at least one opening of the template.

43. The device of claim 42 wherein the template material includes an edge glow material configured to redirect light toward the periphery and the edge of the at least one opening of the semi-transparent material.

44. A device for rendering shapes upon a material, the device comprising:
a frame having a substantially flat lower surface, the flat lower surface sized to support the device in an upright position;

a marking device adjustment assembly coupled to the frame and including an adjusting knob, a plunger, and a biasing member in contact with both the adjusting knob and the plunger, the adjusting knob applying pressure directly against the biasing member;

a marking device assembly at least partially enclosed by the frame and operatively coupled to the marking device adjustment assembly,

wherein the marking device adjustment assembly is adjustably positionable in a plurality of positions and wherein each position of the marking device adjustment assembly results a different amount of downward pressure applied to the marking device assembly.

45. The device of claim 44 wherein the marking device assembly is a blade assembly and wherein the blade assembly includes at least one of a single edged blade, a double edged blade and a rotary blade.

46. The device of claim 44, further comprising a template for facilitating the rendering of shapes onto a material by a rendering device, the template comprising:

a substantially flat sheet having first and second sides, a periphery and at least one opening extending from the first side to the second side, the first side of the sheet configured for placement upon the material to be cut, the second side of the sheet configured to contact the rendering device, the sheet made of a semi-transparent tinted template material, the first side laterally extending at the periphery and at the at least one opening farther than the second side to define a chamfer at the periphery and at the at least one opening of the template.

47. The device of claim 46 wherein the template material includes an edge glow material configured to redirect light toward the periphery and the edge of the at least one opening of the semi-transparent material.

48. The device of claim 44, further comprising a protective cover removably operatively connected to the frame and covering the lower end of the marking device assembly.